

# A VISION OF YOUR FUTURE



Department of  
Veterans Affairs  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

**BLIND & LOW-VISION REHABILITATION**  
*VA – The career you want, the future you deserve*



## The Best Care

From basic care to intensive outpatient and inpatient therapy, VA offers unparalleled blind and low-vision rehabilitation services.

**The Best Care.** That's a bold statement, but one only VA can make.

Our comprehensive continuum of low-vision and blind rehabilitation – from the first signs of vision loss to total blindness due to traumatic injury – ensures that our veterans and active duty personnel will get what they need to reclaim their independence.

VA blind and low-vision rehabilitation services range from basic to advanced, operate from coast to coast, and include intensive inpatient as well as outpatient services. Plus, because rehabilitation services are based on functional need, not patient finances, the services a veteran receives are not restricted by the patient's ability

to pay. No private sector provider can claim our breadth and depth of services.

VA hires only the best, most promising rehabilitation professionals. The path to independence for our Nation's vision-impaired veterans begins with you.





# The Best Careers

Motivated clients. Nationwide opportunities. Impressive benefits. Rewarding work. These are a few of our favorite things.

VA's blind and low-vision rehabilitation professionals have all the tools they need to succeed.

## Career Trajectory

With a plethora of educational programs, paid internships, and professional growth opportunities, our blind and low-vision rehabilitation professionals enjoy unmatched support to meet their personal career goals. So whether you are looking to stay in one position for the duration of your career, expand the depth and breadth of your professional expertise, or move into the highest levels of management, you will always be able to see clearly what your next step should be. Your career trajectory is in your hands, achievement is up to you, and we are here to help.

## Nationwide Opportunity

VA offers blind and low-vision rehabilitation services in all 50 States, Washington, DC, and U.S. Territories.

By working for the Nation's largest provider of blind and low-vision rehabilitation services, you will not be limited by geography.

## Technology

Technology creates amazing possibilities when treating veterans with visual impairment, and VA is dedicated to evaluating and providing it. From the long cane pioneered by VA to today's personal computers, global positioning devices, and optical character readers, VA embraces the application of cutting-edge technology and research in everyday rehab situations. Plus, you'll work with our Harvard-recognized computerized patient records system, which links every VA facility nationwide.

**Join VA's comprehensive interdisciplinary care teams and make every day Independence Day for our Nation's veterans.**

# The Best Benefits

Blind and low-vision rehabilitation professionals do exceptional work. Why, then, should they expect anything less than exceptional benefits? In return for our employees' dedication to top-notch rehabilitation services, we offer a robust salary and benefits package the private sector just can't match.

- Generous annual paid leave, including 13-26 days vacation, 13 sick days, and 10 Federal holidays
- Competitive salaries and regional pay differential rates
- Nationwide job transfer opportunities
- State-of-the-art, CARF-accredited centers
- Advanced education, scholarship, and internship opportunities
- Comprehensive health, life, and long-term care insurance options
- Care determined by patient need, not insurance regulations
- Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), with basic contribution and matching by the Federal Government
- Free parking at most facilities
- Smoke-free and drug-free workplace
- Employee wellness programs
- Child care available at some facilities
- Credit unions





# The Best Education

VA recognizes the importance of ongoing education for employees and the benefit it provides to our patients. That's why we encourage our blind and low-vision rehabilitation professionals to take advantage of VA's abundant continuing education opportunities.

## **Pre-service Internships**

University students may apply for paid pre-service internships in one of our inpatient VA Blind Rehabilitation Centers. Interns have an opportunity to experience VA blind and low-vision rehabilitation service delivery while still in their university programs. These excellent internship opportunities can introduce students to the career possibilities in VA rehabilitation.

## **Employee Incentive Scholarship Program (EISP)**

EISP is a scholarship that may be awarded to full- and part-time VA employees who are currently enrolled in or accepted to accredited education programs. This creates an ideal opportunity for employees to gain advanced degrees, diversify their knowledge base, and advance their careers. The scholarship covers tuition costs and related expenses.

## **Education Debt Reduction Program (EDRP)**

Recently appointed blind and low-vision rehabilitation professionals in designated hard-to-fill positions may be eligible for a monetary award to be paid out over five years. The money can be used to repay loans acquired while pursuing the degree that led to qualification for the appointed position.

## **Paid Internship Opportunities**

Blind and low-vision rehabilitation professionals at the beginning of their careers, or other allied health professionals looking to make a career transition, may begin their VA career with a two-year, paid internship in the Technical Career Field (TCF) Program. This program is not your ordinary internship. It will prepare you with specialized knowledge exclusive to our systems, policies, laws, technology, and Federal rules and regulations, as well as qualify you for guaranteed placement in the VA system upon completing your professional VA internship.

For more information about VA's TCF internship opportunities, visit [www.VAcareers.va.gov/TCF](http://www.VAcareers.va.gov/TCF) or write to [VHATCFProgramManager@va.gov](mailto:VHATCFProgramManager@va.gov).

*VA – The career you want,*

**1-800-949-0002**

# The Best Opportunities

VA is the Nation's largest, continually growing, provider of blind and low-vision rehabilitation services. Our unique position as a nationwide provider of these services – from basic to advanced – gives you the opportunity to work at any desired level of blind and low-vision care. Whether you want to provide direct service care or case manage the entire rehabilitation experience, we can offer the right job that suits your education and level of experience. You will have a national Blind Rehabilitation Service consultant and administrative team in Washington, DC, as your guides in service care and professional growth.

## Basic Low-Vision Care

Basic care starts in every optometry and ophthalmology clinic where the first signs of vision loss are recognized. This allows professionals to act immediately and decisively to limit the impact of vision loss on our patients.

## Intermediate Low-Vision Care

Intermediate care includes low-vision therapy and introduces low-vision equipment, such as magnifiers and telescopes, that help the vision impaired make the most of their remaining eyesight.

## Advanced Low-Vision Care

Advanced care begins orientation and mobility training, allowing low-vision veterans to move safely through their daily routines. Advanced care includes more vision training, more advanced low-vision technology, and more attention to daily living tasks that are impacted by vision loss.

## Outpatient, Inpatient, and At-Home Support

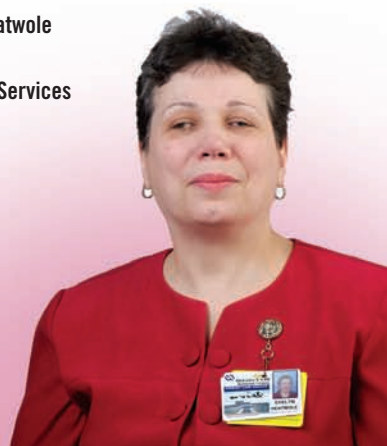
Our system also includes intensive outpatient, inpatient, and at-home support for visually impaired veterans whose needs are more immediate and require the use of intensive blindness rehabilitation techniques and technology. These programs range from intensive 9-day outpatient therapy sessions to 4-6 week inpatient programs to serve veterans who are functionally or totally blind. Often, this includes highly skilled rehabilitation professionals working in veterans' homes.

## Patient Care Is Never a Business Decision

Rehabilitation services are provided according to the patient's functional need, not ability to pay. Throughout the rehabilitation process, VA and its dedicated staff provide all the care and equipment necessary for veterans to get on with their lives. This has a tremendous impact on the patient's willingness to participate in low-vision and blindness therapy, and the professional's ability to provide it.

*"Opportunities at VA have taken me to Connecticut, Puerto Rico, and Virginia as my VA internship 28 years ago progressed into positions as a living skills specialist, assistant and acting chief, and VIST coordinator. Helping blind and low-vision veterans' lives change for the better is still the reason I most enjoy my job at VA."*

— Evelyn Cabrera-Heatwole  
M.A., VRT  
Visual Impairment Services  
Team Coordinator



the future you deserve

[www.VAcareers.va.gov](http://www.VAcareers.va.gov)



# The Best Patients

Veterans not only deserve the best rehab services, they have the courage and conviction to overcome disability.

While the most prevalent cause of legal blindness is age-related, VA blind and low-vision professionals treat patients age 18 and older. In some cases, you may find yourself working side-by-side with interdisciplinary medical care teams as they treat traumatic brain injury and other combat-related wounds.

Regardless of their age, you'll find that veterans and their family members are the best rehab partners. Veterans want their lives back. They want to read their mail, pay their bills, get where they're going, work hard, and play hard.



# Join the VA blind and low-vision rehab team.

VA blind and low-vision rehabilitation positions are filled locally.

**For consideration or to arrange a tour:**

Contact the Human Resources Management Office  
at local VA facilities.

**For job listings, VA facilities, and phone numbers:**

Visit [www.VAcareers.va.gov](http://www.VAcareers.va.gov).

**For more information:**

Visit [www.VAcareers.va.gov/blind\\_rehab](http://www.VAcareers.va.gov/blind_rehab)  
or [www.va.gov/blindrehab](http://www.va.gov/blindrehab).

**E-mail:**

[VHA.Blind.Rehab.Consult@va.gov](mailto:VHA.Blind.Rehab.Consult@va.gov)

**Call:**

1-800-949-0002

**Write to:**

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Placement Service  
1555 Poydras Street, Suite 1971  
New Orleans, LA 70112



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